

TEXAS TIM

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TxDOT TIM TEAMS | 1ST QTR 2023

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Did you know?

Texas distracted driving deaths were up 17% in 2022 from the previous year. Last year, distracted driver crashes resulted in 3,138 fatalities and 400,000 non-life threatening injuries.

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MESSAGE FROM THE STATEWIDE TIM COORDINATOR, DAVID MCDONALD



David McDonald

Hello Texas TIM Team! So much has happened since our last newsletter went out. We all know the saying, "if you do not like the weather, wait five minutes and it will change". If you are skeptical of that saying, all you need to do is look at the beginning of February and the end of the month.

As a whole, we have made great strides in our TIM training, to include expanding to more rural areas of the state. I love going to the smaller areas and train volunteers. The anticipation and attendance always exceeds expectations. I do need to add a "but" here. But even with our training expanding, more needs to be done. We need to look no further

than two significant struck-by incidents during our winter event at the beginning of February. Before our responders enter into an area to render aid, we must make it safe, and during weather events, it is even more critical. I am happy to report we did not lose any responders during the ice event, but two were severely injured. One civilian was killed in Austin from exiting their vehicle in a multi-vehicle pile-up. Due to this tragedy, the local media did encourage drivers involved in a crash to stay in their vehicles with the seat belt on. That is the same message they should be hearing from our 911 call takers.

Your statewide team does not take much time off and we have lots of exciting events and training opportunities coming up over the next few months. To find out more about them, keep scrolling through our newsletter.

As I close, your statewide team is here to support you, the boots on the ground and those working in the "Crosshairs" of "D" drivers. Our number one goal is to provide the training and support so that "Everybody Goes Home". Feel free to reach out and let us know how we can help.

Need more information? Visit the TxDOT Traffic Incident Management website for the latest on training numbers, training classes, and information from around the state and around the country. Go to: <https://www.txdot.gov/safety/traffic-incident-management.html>.



Emergency Response Day
April 25th, 2023

FREE Registration for First Responders
Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, TX.



FHWA KICKS OFF NEW EDC-7 CONTENT

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Every Day Counts Program, or EDC-7, held a virtual summit on February 14-16, 2023 to introduce seven new initiatives in this cycle of EDC. Transportation leaders, practitioners, first responders, and agency leaders from around the country gathered to discuss TIM objectives for the coming year.

The EDC-7 summit included 2,000 attendees to encourage creative thinking and celebrate the shared vision for new opportunities in the traffic incident management community around the country.

The EDC-7 is a model that identifies and deploys proven, yet sometimes unrecognized or underutilized innovations to make the roadway transportation system in the United States adaptable, equitable, and safer for everyone. This program encompasses many aspects of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). One of those specific areas of focus is Traffic Incident Management; making the roadways safer for first responders and training emergency workers in safe quick clearance practices to ensure "Everybody Goes Home!"



The EDC program, now in its seventh cycle, began in 2011 to accelerate deployment of creative innovations and to build a culture of innovation to ensure the latest relevant technologies were being utilized for safer and more efficient traffic operations. This year's summit included a program called "Next Generation TIM:



Technology for Saving Lives." Hosted by Jim Austrich, Paul Jodoin, and Joe Tebo (FHWA Office of Operations and National TIM Program Managers), the program featured six areas of innovation that state programs can develop to increase responder safety. Those areas are: (1) Advance Warning Technologies, such as rotating mobile or truck mounted message boards, (2) debris removal systems, such as the LaneBlade or MoDOT JAWS system, (3) Emergency Vehicle Preemption (traffic lights that change from red to green for approaching emergency vehicles) (4) emergency vehicle lighting and markings, (5) TIM technologies to support EMS Post-Crash Care, and (6) the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for TIM, such as tethered drone technology.

The statewide TIM team is evaluating the information from the summit and will create an initiative that will promote one or more of these technologies for the coming year. The team will develop first responder webinar presentations with topic experts to answer questions and seek funding opportunities for purchase and implementation.

HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS BACK IN THE TRANSTAR TMC

by David Fink, Manager, Houston-Galveston Area Council

After leaving Houston TranStar in 2010 due to City budget shortfalls, the Houston Police Department (HPD) returned in February to the Houston TranStar Control Floor. HPD currently staffs the Houston TranStar Control Room on Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will transition to 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. shifts once two officers are available to be assigned to those positions. The primary responsibility of these assigned officers will be assisting the Tow and GoTM tow program with the removal of abandoned and disabled vehicles that pose a hazard to the motoring public. However, they will be available

for assistance with the coordination of Houston police officers on the major roadway crash scenes and other towing needs within the Houston city limits. The Houston TranStar TMC welcomes the return of HPD officers to control room floor and views this cooperative effort as a great benefit to the area TIM program, first responders, and the motoring public. Houston police administration officials understand the importance of the safe, quick clearance goals of the TIM program and feels that this is an essential component to keeping traffic moving smoothly and everyone safe on area freeways.



SAN ANTONIO TMC NABS 100th WRONG-WAY DRIVER

By Cecil Arient, San Antonio TIM Coordinator, AECOM

At 3:11 AM on December 27th, 2022, an E-Tone activates at the Traffic Management Center (TransGuide) in San Antonio. TMC operator Ishmael Trevino quickly springs into action. Using a bank of cameras throughout the targeted area to locate a wrong-way driver (WWD), he sees a vehicle driving southbound in the northbound main lanes of US-281 near Jones Maltsberger Rd. Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) are quickly activated to display emergency warnings to the motoring public of a wrong-way driver while simultaneously notifying San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) of the potentially deadly situation.

Minutes later, SAPD is able to locate the wrong-way driver and stop the errant vehicle before anyone is seriously hurt or killed. This particular event was concluded only ten minutes after it began. The expert coordination between the San Antonio TMC (TransGuide) and SAPD, apprehended a significant milestone 100th wrong-way driver since tracking began at TransGuide in March of 2011.

In San Antonio, much like the rest of the country, wrong-way driver incidents are most prevalent after bars start closing in the early morning hours, particularly on weekends. Wrong way-

crashes are rare, but when they occur, they will typically involve the fatality of the driver and occupants of any other vehicles involved.

According to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAFTS), between 2010 and 2018, 2,921 wrong-way crashes resulted in 3,885 deaths—an average of 430 deaths per year. Over half of these deaths were drivers of the wrong-way vehicle (52.8%), a small percentage were their passengers (5.7%), while about four in ten (41.1%) were occupants of other vehicles. Congratulations to the TransGuide/SAPD Team on this incredible achievement!



TEXAS TIM STATEWIDE WEBINAR, FEB. 15, 2023

By Jim Comfort, AECOM

February 15th marked the first Statewide Texas TIM bi-monthly webinar of 2023. The Texas TIM webinar features TIM topic subject matter experts from around the country that present on innovations in technique and technology designed to clear traffic incidents from roadways and ensure that "Everybody Goes Home!" every time, every incident.

This month featured two innovations from the towing community and the HERO/Courtesy Patrol/Safety Service Patrol arena. The first, presented by James Bennett, the owner of Beard's Towing in Fort Worth, demonstrated quick clearance technique by using a custom-built dolly to move damaged or buckled commercial vehicle trailers without the time-consuming and dangerous policy of unloading and reloading cargo on the roadway.

The second presentation was from the Missouri DOT. Unfortunately, due to illness, the MoDOT representative was unavailable to present on the webinar. Mr. McDonald, having viewed the presentation the previous day on another webinar, gave an excellent presentation of the JAWS (short for Julie's Automated Waste-Removal System), and device created after an MoDOT employee, Julie, was killed removing debris from the roadway outside of her vehicle. This system was designed and built by MoDOT and the design plans are available for FREE to any agency that wishes to build their own version of the system.

Mr. Bob Murphy discussed the ITS America Emergency Response Day which will take place on April 25th, 2023 in



Grapevine, Texas at the Gaylord Texan Conference Center. This yearly, national conference event is available for FREE to all first responders to attend (See event flyer on the next page). The event is scheduled to feature special guest speakers, a regional TIM meeting, live TIM equipment demonstrations, and a free reception in the exhibit hall.

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Texas has trained 82.1% of all first responders in the state. While these are great numbers, there is still a long way to go to get all our first responders TIM trained and certified.

To get on the statewide TIM webinar invitation list, please contact David McDonald at david.mcdonald@txdot.gov.



Conference: April 24-27, 2023 | Expo Hall: April 25-27, 2023
Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, TX

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM TUESDAY, APRIL 25

ITS America Events is proud to announce the Emergency Response (ER) Program, taking place on Tuesday, April 25 at ITS America Conference & Expo 2023. This year's ER Program will focus on the ongoing needs and challenges that emergency responders face on our roadways and honors the response community by educating the ITS industry on the technologies that can save lives and keep the transportation system moving in a safe and efficient manner. The Emergency Response Program's crucial mission is to increase the personal safety of responders and motorists while restoring mobility for emergency, commercial, and personal traffic incidents.

Emergency Response programming includes:

- Kick-off meeting and workshop
- Curated education sessions from the Emergency Response committee and the ITS America programming team
- Walking tour of the Expo Hall visiting exhibitors that have emergency response solutions and technology
- Live demonstrations
- And more

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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REGISTER TODAY AT [ITSAMERICAEVENTS2023.COM/ERPROGRAM](https://itsamericalevents2023.com/erprogram)

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DFW TIM TRAINING

AVAILABLE CLASSES

NCTCOG First Responder & Manager's course
2022 class schedule
616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX, 76005



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

Date	First Responder	
Apr. 13 – 14, 2023	(In-Person) 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Each Day TxDOT Fort Worth Office 5501 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, TX. 76005	bwalsh@nctcog.org
Jun. 15 – 16, 2023	(In-Person) 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Each Day NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX. 76005	bwalsh@nctcog.org
Aug. 3 – 4, 2023	(In-Person) 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Each Day TxDOT Fort Worth Office 5501 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, TX. 76005	bwalsh@nctcog.org
Executive Level Course - A two-hour course designed to give department executives a general overview of the TIM program.		
May 4, 2023	(In-Person) 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. NCTCOG 616 Six Flags Dr. Arlington, TX 76005	bwalsh@nctcog.org
This course is available for all TxDOT Area Engineers, DTO, and D00s.		

For SHRP2 TIM Training classes contact Camille Fountain: cfountain@nctcog.org
Off-Site classes available

TIM MEETINGS

Texas Statewide TIM Webinar

Apr. 19, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Jun. 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Every third Wednesday, every other month.

The cities of Austin, Childress, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio all have local TIM meetings that discuss local TIM operations.

Contact David McDonald for Meetings and Webinar information:
david.mcdonald@txdot.gov
or (512) 965-2515.

THE THREE T's OF TIM – TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING!

The statewide TIM team has been busy this year with TIM training, traveling to Boerne, Waco, and to the Brownwood and Atlanta TxDOT Districts to teach the 4-Hour TIM Course for First Responders. In addition, Nicole Tyler, Traffic Safety Specialist (TSS) and Childress TIM Coordinator, trained 16 EMS personnel in Wellington, TX. one day, then returned to train another 16 first responders from the surrounding communities. Tom Ballard, the Austin TIM Coordinator, trained the entire San Marcos FD 60 members, four San Marcos Traffic Division police officers, and five members of the San Marcos EMS community. So far, in the first two months of 2023 there have been 231 first responders TIM certified in Texas!

Training is the cornerstone of safety when responding to traffic incidents of Texas roadways. It is everyone's responsibility to stay safe to ensure that "Everybody Goes Home!"

The TIM For information about hosting a class in your area, contact David McDonald at david.mcdonald@txdot.gov.





TEXAS HERO/SAFETY SERVICE PATROL/COURTESY PATROL

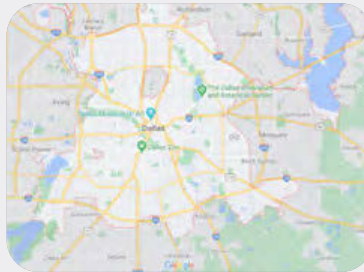
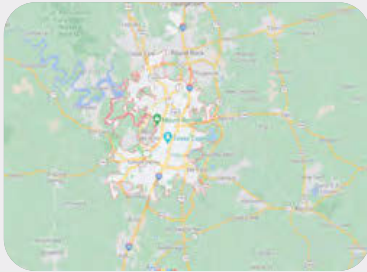
Much More Than a Tire Change



Throughout 2022, HERO/Safety Service Patrol/Courtesy Patrol operators have shown how essential their service is to the motoring public and first responder agencies throughout the great state of Texas. In this issue of the Texas TIM Newsletter, we are proud to feature men from the Austin HERO that saved lives in a crash and protected first responders on the highway. Thank you to all of our "Highway Heroes"!

AUSTIN HERO

CL miles covered.....142
Incidents.....8,282
Service to public.....10,377



DALLAS COURTESY PATROL

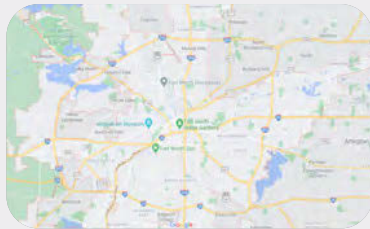
CL miles covered.....260
Incidents.....3,345
Service to public.....5,808

EL PASO HERO

CL miles covered.....212
Incidents.....6,359
Service to public.....17,883



FORT WORTH COURTESY PATROL



CL miles covered.....462
Incidents.....231
Service to public.....2,222

April-June 2022

Texas Totals

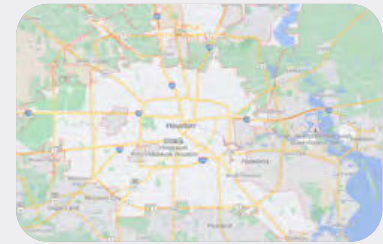
Total Lane Miles – 1,948
Incidents – 35,027
Services to Public – 97,005

Incidents - blocking/assisting in crashes
Services - Tire changes, gas, etc.

In 1998, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) conducted a study of 54 freeway service patrols in the U.S. and found that approximately 64 percent came into being in 1990.

HOUSTON MOTORIST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

CL miles covered.....256
Incidents.....6,150
Service to public.....27,185



NORTH TEXAS TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

CL miles covered.....156
Incidents.....NA
Service to public.....11,916

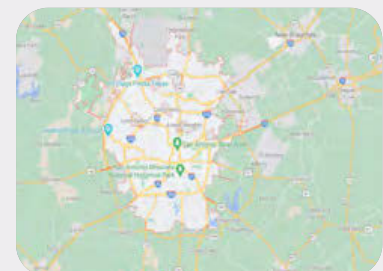


NORTH TARRANT EXPRESS NORTH TARRANT EXPRESS 3 LBJ TOLLWAY

CL miles covered.....211
Incidents.....NA
Service to public.....1,857

SAN ANTONIO HERO

CL miles covered.....261
Incidents.....11,001
Service to public.....27,916



MEET THE AUSTIN TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR – TOM BALLARD



What does it take to be a police officer? What words come to mind when someone says the words "police officer"? Courage, honor, duty... public service is more than a job; it is a calling. It is an unquenchable need to serve their communities, their country, and their fellow brothers and sisters in blue. What type of person puts on a uniform each day, placing himself in harm's way for strangers, and dedicating himself to a life of service? Say hello to Tom Ballard.

Tom is the Traffic Incident Management Coordinator for the Austin TxDOT district. Hired by SERCO as a consultant to TxDOT in June of 2022, Tom is responsible for coordinating TIM activities in the city of Austin, as well as the surrounding communities. Some of these include teaching the FHWA 4-Hour TIM for First Responder course to area first responder agencies and police cadet classes, organizing and hosting the AIM High (Austin area Incident Management Highways) meetings, and establishing statewide TIM goals and initiatives throughout the Austin district.

Tom grew up on a farm in rural Kentucky. He joined the US Air Force in 1987 as a security police officer where he served in the invasion of Panama during Operation Just Cause in 1989, and in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

After his Honorable discharge from active duty, Tom joined the Austin Police Department in 1992. Throughout his career in uniform, he served the city as a patrol officer, a member of the Austin PD SWAT team, and an officer in the highway enforcement unit. He was promoted to detective in 1997, where he worked in the child abuse and burglary units. He also worked for eight years as a Wrecker Enforcement Detective, giving him practical experience in traffic incident management. In 2018, he was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned as a patrol supervisor in northeast Austin. After 30 years of dedicated service to the city of Austin and its residents, Tom retired from his duties with the police department.

Tom is married to his wife of twenty-six years, Kelli, who works for the University of Texas as part of a research team

that studies pediatric heart procedures. They have two sons, Dustin and Jake. His younger son, Jake, is in college working on his business degree. His elder son, Dustin, is serving in the US Navy and was recently named US Navy Airman of the Year! Outstanding service is a Ballard family tradition.

On behalf of Mr. David McDonald, the statewide TIM coordinator, the Texas TIM Team, and first responders throughout the state, we wish Mr. Ballard the best of luck and many years of continued service to the citizens of the great state of Texas.

FACES OF THE FALLEN – REMEMBERING OUR COMRADES

We are fortunate that no first responders were killed in Texas in the fourth quarter of 2022. The last newsletter release without a first responder death in Texas was the third quarter of 2022. Our thoughts and prayers for fast and full recovery go out to those first responders that have been struck and injured in this time period.

We share the grief of our sister agencies around the country and mourn the first responders that have given their lives in the line-of-duty on United States highways this year.

